

CLAIMS

What we claim is:

- 5 1. A method of generating data suitable for transmission to at least one of a predetermined combination of at least a first and a second data-receiving device, the method comprising providing data, at least one rule, and identifiers, wherein the identifiers are associated with portions of the data and are arranged to identity that portion of the data, and the at least one
10 rule specifies for the predetermined combination of first and second data-receiving devices to which device a portion of the data having a predetermined identifier should be sent and the method further comprising selecting portions of the data for transmission to at least one of the data-receiving devices depending upon the at least one rule.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1 in which the identifiers are placed within the data prior to the generation of the data suitable for transmission.
- 20 3. A method according to claim 1 in which the identifiers provide an indication as to the intended function of the portion of the data with which they are associated.
- 25 4. A method according to claim 3 in which the rules specify to which device a portion of data should be sent according the intended function of that portion of data.
5. A method according to claim 1 in which the identifiers provide an indication of the importance of a portion of data relative to other portions of the same data.

6. A method according to claim 5 in which the rules specify to which device a portion of data should be sent according to the importance of the portion of data.
- 5 7. A method according to claim 1 which comprises generating a set of rules which are used as a default in order to determine to which data-receiving device the data should be sent.
8. A method according to claim 1 in which a user may alter the rules.
- 10 9. A method according to claim 1 in which the method comprises writing the data in a data-receiving device independent language.
10. A computing device arranged to hold data intended for transmission
15 to at least one of a predetermined combination of at least a first and a second data-receiving devices, the computing device comprising a processor arranged to process data, a transmitter arranged to receive data from the processor and to transmit data from the device, a receiver arranged to receive data to the device and to pass the data to the processor, storage
20 arranged to store data together with a set of rules determining how data should be processed and to allow the processor to access the data and the rules stored in the storage, wherein the receiver is arranged to receive a request for data and pass the request to the processor, the processor being
25 arranged to access data stored in the storage, determine to which of the at least two data-receiving devices at least a portion of the data should be sent according to the rules held in the storage together with identifiers held within the data and further arranged to pass the data, that the processor determines should be transmitted, to the transmitter wherein the transmitter is arranged to transmit the data it has been passed to at least one of the data-
30 receiving devices.

11. A computing device according to claim 10 which is connected to a network and in which the data receiver and data transmitter are arranged to connect the computing device to the network.
- 5 12. A computing device according to claim 10 in which the device is one of a server and a router.
- 10 13. A device arranged to concurrently establish a data connection between a computing device and at least a first and a second data-receiving device such that data is sent to one of the first and the second data receiving devices depending upon an identifier within the data wherein the first and the second data-receiving devices are intended to be used in conjunction, the device comprising a receiver arranged to receive data from the data connection, a transmitter arranged to send data over the data connection and
15 a processor arranged to process data and to control the receiver and the transmitter, the device being arranged such that when it establishes the data connection the receiver is arranged to receive the identity of the first and the second data-receiving devices.
- 20 14. A device according to claim 13 which is arranged to send an amount of data such that at least some of the data is sent to the first data receiving device and at least some of the data is sent to the second data receiving device.
- 25 15. A network comprising at least one computing device and at least two data receiving devices, the computing device being arranged to make data connections to the at least two data receiving devices used in conjunction with one another such that predetermined data is handled by one of the data handling devices and other predetermined data is handled by another of the
30 data handling devices, the computing device comprising a processor arranged to process data, a transmitter arranged to receive data from the

- processor and to transmit data from the computing device, a receiver arranged to receive data to the computing device and to pass data to the processor, memory arranged to store data together with a set of rules determining how data should be processed and to allow the processor to
- 5 access the data and rules, wherein the receiver is arranged to receive a request for data and pass the request to the processor, the processor being arranged to access data stored in the memory, determine to which of the at least two data receivers at least a portion of the data should be sent according to the rules held in the memory together with identifiers held
- 10 within the data and further arranged to pass the data that the processor determines should be transmitted to the transmitter and wherein the transmitter is arranged to transmit the data it has been passed to at least one of the data receiving devices and the at least two data -receiving devices being arranged to receive data from the computing device.
- 15
16. A computer readable medium containing instructions which when read onto a processing unit cause that processing unit to perform the method of claim 1.
- 20 17. A computer readable medium containing instructions which when read onto a processing unit to function as the computing means of claim 10.
18. A computer readable medium containing instructions which when read onto a data-receiving device cause that data-receiving device to
- 25 function as one of the data-receiving devices according to claim 13.
19. A computer readable medium containing instructions which when read onto a computer on a network cause that network to function according to claim 15.

20. A method of generating data suitable for transmission to at least one of a predetermined combination of at least a first and a second data-receiving device, the method comprising providing data, at least one rule and identifiers, wherein the identifiers are associated with portions of the data and are arranged to identify that portion of the data and the at least one rule specifies for the predetermined combination of first and second data-receiving devices to which device a portion of the data having a predetermined identifier should be sent and the method further comprising selecting portions of the data for transmission to at least one of the data-receiving devices depending upon the at least one rule, wherein the identifiers provide an indication as to the intended function of the portion of the data with which they are associated and the rules specify to which of the first and the second devices data should be sent.
21. A method according to claim 20 in which the identifiers provide an indication as to the intended function of the portion of the data with which they are associated.
22. A method according to claim 21 in which the rules specify to which device a portion of data should be sent according the intended function of that portion of data.
23. A method of creating data intended for transmission to at least one of a combination of at least a first and a second data-receiving device, the method comprising providing data, at least one condition and identifiers, wherein an identifier is associated with a portion of the data and is arranged to identify that portion of the data, and the at least one condition specifies for the combination of first and second data-receiving devices to which device a portion of the data having a predetermined identifier should be sent and the method further comprising selecting portions of the data for

transmission to at least one of the data-receiving devices depending upon the at least one condition.

24. A network comprising at least one computing device and at least two data receiving devices, the computing device being arranged to make data connections to the at least two data receiving devices used in conjunction with one another such that predetermined data is handled by one of the data handling devices and other predetermined data is handled by another of the data handling devices, the computing device comprising a processor, a transmitter, a receiver, and a memory arranged to store data including identifiers identifying predetermined data to be sent to one of the data receiving devices together with a set of rules determining how data should be processed, wherein the receiver is arranged to receive a request for data and pass the request to the processor, the processor being arranged to access data stored in the memory, determine to which of the at least two data receiving devices at least a portion of the data should be sent according to the rules held in the memory together with the identifiers held within the data and further arranged to pass the data that the processor determines should be transmitted to the transmitter and wherein the transmitter is arranged to transmit the data it has been passed to at least one of the data receiving devices at any one time and the at least one data-receiving devices being arranged to receive data from the computing device.
25. A device arranged to concurrently establish a data connection with at least a first and a second data-receiving device such that data is sent to one of the first and the second data receiving devices depending upon an identifier within the data wherein the data-receiving devices are intended to be used in conjunction with one another, the device comprising a receiver arranged to receive data from the data connection, a transmitter arranged to send data over the data connection and a processor arranged to process data and to control the receiver and the transmitter, the device being arranged

such that when it establishes the data connection the processor is arranged to receive from the receiver the identity of the first and the second data-receiving devices, the device being further arranged to receive data at least a portion of which is intended for the first data-receiving device and at least
5 a portion of which is intended for the second data-receiving device and the processor being further arranged to control the transmitter to transmit each of the portions of the data to the data-receiving device for which they are intended such that at least some of the data is received by the first data receiving device and at least some of the data is received by the second data
10 receiving device.

26. A device according to claim 25 which is provided within a network and arranged to receive the data from the network.

15 27. A device arranged to concurrently establish a data connection between a computing device and at least a first and a second data-receiving device such that data is sent to one of the first and the second data receiving devices depending upon an identifier within the data wherein the first and the second data-receiving devices are intended to be used in conjunction,
20 the device comprising a receiver arranged to receive data from the data connection, a transmitter arranged to send data over the data connection and a processor arranged to process data and to control the receiver and the transmitter.

25